

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

The Bill Emancipating Slaves in the District of Columbia Passed by the Senate.

One Hundred Thousand Dollars Voted in Aid of the Negroes Who Emigrate.

Important Resolution Declaratory of the Object of the War.

The Work of the House on the Tax Bill Nearly Completed.

ENLISTMENTS FOR THE ARMY SUSPENDED.

WASHINGTON, April 3, 1862.

FARMERS BY THE SENATE OF THE BILL EMANCIPATING SLAVES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

This afternoon, at half-past five o'clock, the Senate passed the bill to emancipate the slaves in the District of Columbia. The constitution, Chicago platform and the speeches of President Lincoln were quoted in vain by the opponents of the measure. Twenty-nine Senators voting aye, and fourteen nay, the bill was passed substantially as it was reported by Senator Wilson early in the session.

The bill was introduced by Senator Wilson on the 16th of December, and reported back to the committee for the District on the 30th of February with amendments, which, however, do not affect the principles or plan of emancipation as embodied in the original bill.

The compensation for slaves, to be awarded by a commissioner appointed by the President, is to average three hundred dollars each, and it may range from a dime to a thousand dollars. Very few high priced negroes are left in the District, however, and a large proportion of those will remain in their masters' service for choice.

THE TAX BILL.

The Committee of Ways and Means are determined to push the bill through the Committee of the Whole this week. Only two sections remain to be discussed. It is thought the bill will not pass the House when reported, and the Senate will not change it materially before passing it. Congress is convinced of the absolute necessity of raising a large revenue with the least possible delay. It is believed in some quarters that an entirely new bill will be offered in the Senate as a substitute, but it is believed that the urgent necessity for the passage of some revenue bill without delay will induce the passage of the House bill without material modification. In the meantime the many amendments made in Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union will be printed.

THE ENLISTMENT OF SOLDIERS STOPPED.

All officers engaged in the recruiting service have been ordered to their regiments and not to give notice to the Government of States that no new enlistments of new levies will be received until further orders from the War Department. The force now in the field is deemed amply sufficient for the suppression of the rebellion and the speedy termination of the war.

GALLANT ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE SOUTHWEST.

The capture of Union City by Colonel Buford, and the capture of the enemy's batteries by the expedition under Colonel Roberts, are regarded by the War Department as very gallant achievements.

THE CHARGES AGAINST THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

The 'New York World' having reiterated its vague charges against the integrity of Secretary Smith's management of the affairs of the Interior Department, that gentleman has promptly demanded of the conductors of that journal the name of his covert assailant, and specifications of the latter's allegations. He indignantly scouted the accusation as being a monstrous fabrication, gotten up to compass some sinister purpose, and evidently intends pursuing the matter, in order to make an example of those who may be behind his irresponsible assailant, if, as is probable, some such person be named in answer to his demand of the proprietors of the 'World' newspaper.

REPORTS OF REFUGEES FROM RICHMOND.

The steamer King Philip arrived from the lower river last night, bringing out a number of refugees from the Westernland counties, Virginia, who came off from Kincaid on Saturday last. They state that the rebels are pressing every male between the ages of eighteen and forty-five into the service, and they had been closely hunted by the press gang for a week or two.

The rebels have mostly left the neighborhood of London; but a few squads of their cavalry roam through the country, impressing into the service all able to bear arms.

The four refugees state that they are natives of that section, one being an old farmer named Gandy, and the others young men engaged in business near him. One of the young men has been acting as the rebel postmaster at Kincaid.

The refugees give the following as the ruling prices lately in that vicinity:—Coffee, \$1.25 per pound; sugar, 40c.; fine salt, 30c.; and table salt, put up in half gallon sacks, \$1.25. Buta are to be had only in Frederickburg at \$1.30 per pair.

The refugees also say that the late seceder papers state that the Union loss in the recent conflict with the Merrimack was 1,600 men; also that the shots of the Monitor had no more effect on the sides of the Merrimack than hail stones.

CAPTURE OF A REBEL SCHOONER.

A few days ago the steamer Union ran into the Wycombe, and brought out the seceder schooner called the Isabel. She is in good order, and can be very usefully employed by our government.

ABANDONED REBEL PROPERTY TURNED.

A large amount of property, left by the rebels in their flight from Manassas, was burned yesterday, under direction of Mr. Baker, the special agent of the War Department. It consisted of wagons, with their running gear, and a variety of other articles deemed useless and cumbersome. The notice issued by Mr. Baker has been the means of bringing in many farmers in the neighborhood, who have helped themselves to choice pickings from the abandoned stores at Manassas, and it is probable that considerable valuable property will be turned over to the government.

SOME OF THE PERSONS REMAINING BEHIND SEEM INCINED TO PUT IN CLAIMS FOR PORTIONS OF THE ABANDONED PROPERTY.

Under the plea that it came into their possession by regular sale, and that they are Union men. A quantity of tobacco has been claimed by Mr. Johnson, who is known to have had dealings with the rebels, and exchanged Confederate money, which he knew to be worthless, for the commodity. All these cases will undergo a searching scrutiny.

IMPROVEMENT OF AFFAIRS IN VIRGINIA.

Thrill is again making its appearance along the route between Fairfax Court House and Alexandria. Some of the farmers were yesterday engaged in ploughing their lands, and in several instances despoiled and deserted dwellings were being repaired.

THE CHESTER AND OHIO CANAL.

The government has returned to their respective owners all the boats on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, which has already begun to revive. Eight or ten barges of fuel are among the first receipts.

THE SECESSION SPIES IN VIRGINIA.

The plan which seems to prevail, of allowing civilians to travel within our lines from Washington to Manassas without requiring the military authorities to maintain a supervision over them, by calling for their papers at convenient places on the route, is being taken advantage of by the seceder spies, who are now more active than in the business of spies than ever. It is well known that the services of the money are daily in Alexandria; and that squads of rebel cavalry are about

ing even in the rear of the federal army. It is believed that every movement of the government troops, their number, &c., is speedily communicated to the rebels by their sympathizers within our lines, through the laxity which is now exercised in regard to the passes. The country has not been by any means secured in the advance, and as many members of Stuart's cavalry are resident in the neighborhood of Manassas, it is a most convenient arrangement for them to be in a civilian's garb, selling as a spy one day and a member of a scouting party the next. If a more stringent rule is not adopted, the curiosity seekers at the battle field of Bull Run, will have some day a disagreeable introduction to a few of these gentry. The roads are frequented by very suspicious individuals, and particular precautions should be taken by all who travel outside of the army on the other side of the Potomac.

A SECESSION MEETING BROKEN UP.

An effort was made on Saturday last to hold a secession meeting in disguise at Fairfax Court House. Colonel Burbeck, of the Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, sent down a company of men from Centerville, and arrested some twenty of the participants, who were released after taking the oath of allegiance.

REBEL DESERTERS COMING IN.

Deserters from the Army of Manassas are making their appearance occasionally. They managed to linger behind at the time of the evacuation, and were overtaken by our troops. Several have been taken. They are well clothed, and appear smart and intelligent. But very little reliance is to be placed upon them, although they profess to be Northern men, forced into the Southern army from want of work.

THE CONTRABANDS COMING IN.

The exodus of contrabands has ceased to excite remark. Hardly a mile of road between Washington and Warrenton can be passed without meeting more or less of the "irrepressible" race. They come not in single spies but in battalions.

GENERAL ROSECRANS.

There is no foundation for the statement that General Rosecrans has resigned. He is a thorough soldier, and intends to do his duty to the end.

GENERAL BLENNER'S COMMAND ATTACHED TO GENERAL FREMONT'S.

Blenner's command has been attached to the department of Fremont, much to the disgust of the rank and file, and to the evident satisfaction of the commander of the Second corps d'armee.

THE COMMISSION ON STATE PRISONERS.

The Commission on State prisoners will commence their sessions at the Fifth Avenue Hotel next Monday. After completing their business there they will proceed to Boston.

VISIT OF ENGLISH ARMY OFFICERS—WHAT THEY THINK OF OUR TROOPS.

Colonel Lyons, Assistant Adjutant General of the Commander-in-Chief of the British army; Colonel Percy, commanding the British Grenadier Guards; Captain Gordon, A. D. C. to Lord Paulet, Lieutenant the Earl of Dunmore, and other British officers of high note, left this city recently for Canada, after having spent some days in Washington, and having seen not a little of our army and our material of war. The names of the men will hardly convey to the American public an adequate idea of their rank and importance. Colonel Lyons, formerly of the Royals, is one of the most distinguished and thorough soldiers in England. He had much to do with the organization of the British Volunteers, and was sent to Canada to organize the Canadian militia at the time that war was expected to grow out of the Trent affair. Colonel Percy, commanding the Grenadier Guards, ranks as a Brigadier General, and few brigadiers in the British service would object to exchange ranks with him. The Grenadier, Coldstream and Fusilier Guards constitute the "Household Brigade," the choice and pet troops of England. They are better paid than the line, more carefully recruited, and officered by the pure "blue blood" of England.

THESE OFFICERS CAME TO SEE THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Before their departure their commanding officer, Sir Fenwick Williams, of Kent, enjoined upon them to preserve the strictest integrity in traveling throughout the United States. He warned them that our hatred of Englishmen, and especially of British officers, was perfectly diabolical; and that as their friend, Dr. Russell, of the Times, had informed them, social demoralization and anarchy were so prevalent here that, if they were identified anywhere on the way as officers of the British army, they would probably be mobbed and murdered. They were, therefore, required to disguise themselves and their baggage. Extra whiskers were cropped, and the names of the owners painted off their travelling impedimenta. So thoroughly was this carried out that Captain Gordon was compelled by an orderly of General Williams to leave behind a note in Montreal, which bore his name and the designation of his regiment.

STRANGE TO SAY, THE PARTY ARRIVED AT WASHINGTON WITHOUT HAVING BEEN ONCE ATTACKED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

They reported to Lord Lyons, and their arrival having become known, they were appalled by a visit from Major General McDowell, who came—not to challenge them, as some of the party expected, but—to exchange civilities and to tender them the compliment of a divisional review.

After due deliberation the invitation was accepted. Precautions were taken, in accordance with General Williams' instructions, to prevent the assassination of the British army, by bands of murderers hired by Mr. Seward. They crossed the Long Bridge without losing a man. Some trepidation was observed among the younger officers when they reached the ground and took their position in front of the division, every man of whom, in the opinion of Dr. Russell, of the London Times, was passing for their blood. But the appearance of General McDowell and staff calmed their fears, and the review proceeded. For five mortal hours they bestowed their horses, watching the evolutions of the most perfect division of the greatest army in the world. At the close Colonel Lyons and Colonel Percy could not help saying that never, in their long military experience, they had witnessed a finer spectacle.

THE LATTER, COLONEL PERCY, AS AN EXPRESSION OF HIS APPRECIATION OF THE PART TAKEN BY THE BRITISH ARMY, EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE IN A MOST ELEGANT SPEECH.

General McDowell, was duly complimented in the person of the Englishman to his chief surprise, which was that none of the party had been shot at. General McDowell could not, of course, guess that this thought was uppermost in their minds. With the exquisite taste so characteristic of Englishmen, Colonel Percy communicated to General McDowell, whom he met at the review, his high appreciation of the soldierly appearance of his troops, and suggested that it would be well to issue an order of the day stating that the review had been witnessed by distinguished officers of the British army, who pronounced the drill and manœuvres of the division very fine and creditable.

GENERAL MCLELLAN REPLIED THAT IT WAS A VERY GOOD IDEA INDEED, AND THAT HE SHOULD NOT FAIL TO ACT UPON IT WHEN HE HAD TIME. PITY HE HAS BEEN SO BUSY EVER SINCE.

It was our old friend, Sir William Boyd, who said that the roads in this country should be run with extra care when the cars contained "distinguished Englishmen." Had not Colonel Percy better have left him the monopoly of the idea?

BULL RUN RUSSELL'S MOVEMENTS.

L. D. Russell has fallen from his high estate. Since his election, with his fancy team, from a government transport he has been going rapidly down hill. He has had the cold shoulder turned to him by even all those who were once wont to receive him with open arms. He is reduced to the situation of a few English nobles, who will drop him as soon as they discover he is in bad odor.

THE PROPOSED CLOTHING BILL.

A bill introduced by Senator Wilson in the Senate today provides that:—

Section 1. That there be and hereby is established in the Quartermaster's Department of the army a bureau of clothing for the army of the United States, to consist of one colonel, one lieutenant colonel, one major and four captains, from among the officers of the regular army and volunteers, whose rank, pay and emoluments shall be respectively the same as now allowed by law to officers of the same grade in the Quartermaster's Department.

Section 2.—It shall be the duty of the chief of the Bureau of Clothing and his subordinates, when directed by the Secretary of War or the Quartermaster General, to provide for the clothing and camp and garrison outfit of the army and to see that the clothing of the army shall be made by the Secretary of War or the Quartermaster General. And the officers herein provided for shall be subject to existing regulations for the care and accountability of property, and to all other army regulations not conflicting with the provisions of this act, and no officer of the Bureau of Clothing shall be considered directly or indirectly in the purchase or sale for commercial purposes of any intended for making a part of or appertaining to this department except for and on account for the officers of the United States, and any officer found guilty of being interested in the business connected therewith shall be dismissed the service.

THE RAILROADS AND THE POSTAL SERVICE.

The House Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads have agreed to report a bill to secure the speedy transportation of the mails, in accordance with a recommendation of the Postmaster General. It requires all railroad companies to contract with the department for this purpose, and, in case of failure to agree upon the price, the Court of Claims is to be the arbiter, whose decision shall be final on both parties.

LETTERS FOR SOLDIERS IN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

The Post Office Department has issued the following notification:—

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, April 3, 1862. The Post Office Department deems it advisable that all letters addressed to officers and soldiers of the Army of the Potomac, whether in Washington or moving South, should be mailed to Washington, D. C., from that city they will be properly forwarded, in separate packages, to the respective corps and divisions, and their delivery facilitated. Commanders of divisions are requested, as movements occur, to cause notice to be given to the Postmaster of Washington to what point such packages, destined to regiments under their command, should be sent.

JOHN A. KANSON, FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.

THE NAVY.

The following orders and appointments have been made at the Navy Department:—

John C. Sullivan, Acting Master's Mate, United States Gunboat Arcostock, has been reported as deserted.

Lieutenant G. C. Willis, detached from the St. Lawrence, and ordered to the Dakota.

Commander Charles Steadman, ordered to command the Paul Jones, now preparing for sea at Baltimore.

William P. Ayres, of New Jersey, and M. V. B. Darling, of Rhode Island, appointed Acting Third Assistant Engineers, and ordered to the steamer Dawn, at New York.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer, John McCluskey, ordered to the steamer Somerset, at New York.

Lieutenant Henry Erben, Jr., detached from the Huntsville and ordered to report to the Officer in Charge.

THE NAVAL ACADEMY.

The Naval Academy Board, in concluding their review of certain suggestions, say a permanent locality of the institution is of great importance, and also attaching another frigate for naval practice. The latter has for some time been contemplated by the Navy Department.

THE CADET OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY.

Capt. A. H. Harwood, Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography, in reply to a letter from Representative Sedgwick, says, under the present system of appointment, hardly fifty per centum of the naval cadets graduate. This is because no care is taken in selecting at first pupils who have the rudiments of education either intellectual or moral, and because unscrupulous, ignorant and idle boys, expelled or permitted to resign, are sometimes recommended by members of Congress.

Captain Harwood expresses the hope that the power to reappoint after the nomination has once been rejected for cause will be taken away.

CAPTAIN LILLEY CASHIERED.

Captain William Lilley, quartermaster of the brigade commanded by General Isaac I. Stevens, has been tried by court martial at Beaufort, S. C., on the charge of "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman," found guilty, and sentenced to be cashiered.

PROMOTION OF COLONEL VAN ALLEN.

Colonel J. H. Van Allen, of New York, was to-day nominated as Brigadier General. For several months previous to his resignation he was occupied as president of the board for the examination of cavalry officers, and is regarded by the Commander-in-Chief as an officer of great ability and discretion.

THE GAZETTE OF THE WAR.

Mr. Davis, (Union) of Ky., offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the war shall not be presented in any spirit of conquest or subjugation, but to defend the constitution and preserve the rights of the several States unimpaired, and that the United States will prosecute the war until such is secured.

THE RESOLUTION WAS Laid OVER.

Mr. Wilkey, (Union) of Va., offered the following:—

Resolved, That the Military Committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of the Army at Harper's Ferry, what is the damage done thereto, and whether it is expedient to restore and repair the same and re-employ the workmen.

THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO CITIZENS ABROAD.

On motion of Mr. Sumner, (rep.) of Mass., the bill to provide for the administration of the oath of allegiance to citizens in foreign countries was taken up and passed.

PASSAGE OF THE BILL ABOLISHING SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia was taken up.

Mr. McDougall, (rep.) of Cal., proceeded to speak against the measure. He said he regretted the introduction of all these measures, and he thought the character of this discussion would not tend to restore the Union. He contended that such a measure was especially ineffectual at such a time as this. The republican party was, especially by the President against it. Though he (Mr. McDougall) was opposed to slavery, and considered it a special evil in this District, he was willing to vote for a bill providing for a gradual emancipation of the slaves and a wise system of colonization.

Mr. Tice, (rep.) of N. J., would have much preferred a bill providing for a gradual emancipation of the slaves, with just compensation, and the submission of the question to the people of the District. Mr. Ten Eyck here referred to the views of the President, as expressed in his discussions with Mr. Douglas, in 1860, and to the pledge of the President to non-interference with slavery by the republican party, as the reasons why he expressed the above preference. He (Mr. Ten Eyck) considered it but just and reasonable that this question should be passed upon by the people of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Tice, (rep.) of Ill., asked what property is there in submitting a question for nine or the Senator's (Mr. Ten Eyck's) constituents to the few people here, "Whether the capital of the nation shall be free or not?" Why should not the whole people have a vote upon it?

Mr. Ten Eyck replied that slavery had existed in this district for a long time, but he (Mr. Ten Eyck) did not know that the people of Congress had been impeded thereby. He also thought that the interests and the feelings of the border States ought to be consulted.

Mr. Sumner, (rep.) of Mass., moved to amend the bill, so that, in taking testimony before the commissioners, no witness shall be excluded on account of color.

The amendment was agreed to by yeas, 10; nays, 10. Yeas—Messrs. Bayard, Carlile, Davis, Kennedy, Nesmith, Powell, Sausbury, Wilkey, Wilson (Mo.) and Wright.

Mr. Clark's substitute was rejected.

The question was then taken on the substitute offered by Mr. Wright, which was rejected by yeas, 10; nays, 27. Yeas—Messrs. Bayard, Carlile, Davis, Kennedy, Nathan, Nesmith, Powell, Sherman, Wilkey and Wright.

Mr. Clark, (rep.) of N. H., moved to amend the second section, by providing that a claimant making a petition for payment for his slave, shall take an oath that he (the claimant) has not borne arms in the rebellion, or given any aid or comfort thereto.

Mr. Ten Eyck moved to add the proviso, that such oath of a party to the petition shall not be evidence of the facts therein stated.

This was agreed to, and the amendment adopted.

Mr. Browning, (rep.) of Ill., moved to amend, by providing that the average price of the slave shall be five hundred dollars instead of three hundred, one-half to be retained by the Secretary of the Treasury, to be paid to the person liberated, if he is sent to another country.

Mr. B. said that we should do something more than simply liberate the negro. He did not believe the two races could live together with mutual advantage. Indeed, with all his horror of slavery, he was not sure but if the two races must live together, the best way for them to do so was to remain in the relation of master and slave.

Mr. Wilkey, (rep.) of Pa.—If that is the case, why not propose compulsory emigration?

Mr. Browning thought it was not time to consider that question so small a measure as this. When the question should come up he would be perfectly willing to vote for compulsory emigration, and take his share of the responsibility. He did not believe that the negro could ever rise to an equality of civilization with the white man in this country.

Mr. Browning's amendment was rejected by yeas, 10; nays, 31. Yeas—Messrs. Browning, Davis, Harris, Henderson, Kennedy, Nathan, McDougall, Nesmith, Wilkey and Wright.

Mr. Collamer, (rep.) of Vt., offered an amendment that the owners of persons held to service shall put upon the bill a name and a description of the person liberated by the bill within twenty days after making a claim for payment, or within such time as the commissioners may limit, under the penalty of forfeiture of the claim, and that the clerk of the court shall issue certificates of manumission to the persons liberated.

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. McDougall offered a substitute for the bill similar to the one offered by Mr. Wright, providing for a gradual emancipation of the slaves, compensation for such emancipation, and the submission of the question to the people of the District of Columbia.

This was rejected by yeas, 10; nays, 25.

Mr. Doolittle, (rep.) of Wis., offered an amendment appropriating \$100,000 to aid in the voluntary emigration of the persons liberated by the bill and other persons of color in the District of Columbia to Haiti, Liberia or other country.

This was agreed to, yeas 27, nays 10, as follows:—

YEAS.

Anthony of Rhode Island, Bayard of Delaware, Browning of Illinois, Carlile of Virginia, Collamer of Vermont, Davis of Kentucky, Dixon of Connecticut, Doolittle of Wisconsin, Foster of New York, Harwood of Iowa, Harris of New York, Henderson of Missouri, Howe of Wisconsin, King of New York, Lane of Indiana, Wright of Indiana.

Clayton of Michigan, Clark of New Hampshire, Howard of Michigan, Morrill of Maine, Foster of Connecticut, Sumner of Massachusetts, Mr. Fowler, (rep.) of Ky., spoke against the bill as unconstitutional, impolitic, and unjust to the people of the District and the people of the States.

Mr. Bayard, (rep.) of Del., conceded the right of Congress to legislate for the District of Columbia. He admitted the constitutionality of such a measure, but objected to this particular bill as unconstitutional and unwieldy. The bill takes property in violation of the constitution, and also mixes up the question of loyalty and confiscation with the question of taking property.

The question was then taken on the passage of the bill, and the bill was passed, by yeas 29, nays 14, as follows:—

YEAS.

Anthony of Rhode Island, Bayard of Delaware, Browning of Illinois, Carlile of Virginia, Collamer of Vermont, Davis of Kentucky, Dixon of Connecticut, Doolittle of Wisconsin, Foster of New York, Harwood of Iowa, Harris of New York, Henderson of Missouri, Howe of Wisconsin, King of New York, Lane of Indiana, Wright of Indiana.

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